

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of mass spectrometry comprising a plurality of cycles, each cycle comprising the steps of:
 - (a) preparing ions to be analysed by a mass spectrometer;
 - (b) using a detector of the mass spectrometer to collect data ~~from representative of the quantities and masses of the~~ ions prepared in step (a); and
 - (c) processing the data collected in step (b) with processing means;
wherein at least a part of step (a) and/or a part of step (b) of a cycle is performed concurrently with part (c) of a previous cycle.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising the step of starting step (a) of a cycle upon completion of step (b) of the previous cycle.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising the step of starting step (a) of a cycle during step (b) of the previous cycle.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, comprising the step of starting step (b) of a cycle upon completion of step (b) of the previous cycle.
5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising the step of controlling step (a) and/or step (b) of a cycle in response to data processed in step (c) of a previous cycle.
6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises making available a sample of data collected during an initial period of step (b) for processing in part (c) while the remainder of the data collection of step (b) continues.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, comprising the step of controlling step (a) and/or step (b) of a cycle in response to a sample of data processed in step (c) of a previous cycle.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the mass spectrometer is a hybrid spectrometer comprising first and second detectors, the method further comprising the step of injecting ions into the first detector from the second detector in response to the sample of data processed in step (c).

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the first detector is part of an ICR cell and the second detector is part of an ion storage device.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, comprising the steps of collecting a full mass spectrometry scan with the first detector and performing a MSⁿ scan with the second detector.

11. (Currently amended) A method of mass spectrometry comprising a plurality of cycles, each cycle comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing ions to be analysed with a mass spectrometer;
- (b) using the mass spectrometer to collect data from representative of the quantities and masses of the ions prepared in step (a); and
- (c) processing data collected in step (b);

wherein a sample of the data collected during an initial period of step (b) is processed concurrently with the remainder of the data collection of step (b) and is used to control step (a) and/or step (b) of a subsequent experiment.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the mass spectrometer is a hybrid spectrometer comprising first and second detectors and wherein the sample of data is collected in the first detector and, once processed, is used to control step (a) and/or step (b) of a subsequent experiment performed with the second detector concurrently with collection of the remainder of the data by the first detector.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, comprising the steps of collecting a full mass spectrometry scan with the first detector and performing a MSⁿ scan with the second detector.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein at least step (a) and/or step (b) of a cycle is performed concurrently with part (c) of the previous cycle.

15. (Currently amended) A method of mass spectrometry comprising the steps of:
(a) preparing ions to be analysed by a mass spectrometer;
(b) using a first detector of the mass spectrometer to perform a full mass spectrometry scan of the ions prepared in step (a);
(c) preparing further ions to be analysed by the mass spectrometer; and
(d) using a second detector to perform a MSⁿ scan of the ions prepared in step (c);
wherein step (c) and/or step (d) is performed concurrent with step (b).

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises using an ICR cell as the first detector.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the second detector is located in an ion storage device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
storing the ions prepared in step (a) in an ion storage device;
transferring the stored ions to an ICR cell;
using the ICR cell to detect the ions transferred thereto as step (b);
storing the further ions prepared in step (c) in the ion storage device; and
using detector provided in the ion storage device as the second detector to detect the stored further ions as step (d).

19-22. (Canceled)